

HOW GOVERNMENT MONEY IS WASTED IN PRINTING BILLS

Thousands of Duplicates Are Printed and Distributed.

NOTHING CHANGED FROM COVER TO COVER BUT TITLE

Correspondence Morning Journal.

Washington, Oct. 24.—In the matter of waste in public printing there is no man better qualified to speak than the superintendent of documents, Mr. L. C. Ferrell, through whose department passes a copy of each document printed, and who is in touch with the libraries all over the country that handle the output of the government printing office. In speaking of the big printing bill Mr. Ferrell said:

"The trouble with the public printing service is very largely in the duplication of work, and not in the matter actually printed. The work could be done and done better than it is if the duplication were eliminated and a good many reforms instituted. Take the annual report of the general commanding the army. That is printed three times. In one form it is designated on the back: 'Annual report of the lieutenant general commanding the army in seven parts, part 1, etc.' Then it comes out in the annual report of the war department, where the title reads: 'Report of the war department, volume 1, 1900. Part 1, lieutenant general commanding the army.' Then it comes out as a house document, volume 4, No. 2. Report of war department, 1900. Lieutenant general, part 1; miscellaneous, Fifty-sixth congress, second session, 1900-1901."

"Now even an expert would be puzzled to know that they were all identical, the same being printed from the same plates. With no change but the cover and title pages."

Duplicate Distribution.
"I know of no field of government activities where duplication of work is carried on to a greater extent than in the distribution of public documents. About thirty-five offices in Washington distribute their own publications free to libraries and individuals. The greater number of these publications are distributed free to individuals and libraries by each senator, representative and delegate in congress, and free to libraries by this office. So that the work is not only duplicated but the distribution also by each of these independent agencies."

"The extent of duplication to libraries can be more accurately estimated than the duplication to individuals from the fact that libraries usually preserve all documents sent them and have been returning duplicates for redistribution during the past twenty-five years. Since the establishment of this office in 1895, 800,000 duplicate documents have been returned to it by libraries which received them in duplicate. Applications have been made for the return of several hundred thousand additional volumes but they were declined owing to lack of storage facilities."

"That the duplication to individual has been equally large is unquestionable; doubtless it is much larger. I have statistics of the distribution of two sets of documents—the tenth census reports and the messages and papers of the presidents—where duplication was prevented to the extent of \$5,000 volumes. The entire distribution of the former was made by the department of the interior and this office had control of the distribution of the latter."

"If possible, even worse management is shown in printing as house documents pamphlets that are issued weekly, monthly or quarterly. These are thoroughly distributed in pamphlet form, and then from six months to two years thereafter they are gathered up and issued in expensive sheep-bound sets. A number of annual reports, not administrative in character, are also published as congressional documents. Such annual reports as the pamphlet publications referred to in the 15th volume of documents of the Fifty-eighth congress, of 1905, 85 volumes 157,250 copies were printed, and about 51,000 of the same will be bound in full sheep. I estimate that about \$60,000 of the total cost represents the waste."

Cost of Distribution.
"Another question to be considered in the overproduction and duplication of documents is the cost of distribution. There are about 2,500,000 pounds of duplicate books sent out an returned annually. This at 8 cents a pound means a waste of \$250,000 a year to the postoffice. In fact, when you count binding, storage and original work on this mass of matter it touches a great many points."

"I doubt very much whether any real reform in the printing and binding of documents can be made until all document-distributing offices are consolidated under one head. It is quite safe to say that no business establishment in the land would maintain thirty or forty offices, each duplicating work and distribution of the other to a considerable extent. The money uselessly expended in maintaining so many establishments ought to be saved."

Popularity of Public Documents.
Regarding the value and popularity of government publications, Superintendent Ferrell said:
"There are designated as repositories of public documents one library named by each representative and senator, twelve specially designated repositories, and all the state and territorial libraries, making a total of 140. I have recently sent out a letter to all depositories of documents asking them whether the documents sent were ever taken from the repository, how they were shelved and catalogued, and whether there were any documents that could be profitably eliminated from the list. Replies have been received from about 150 libraries, covering all sections of the country, and more are coming in daily. It is impossible to go into them in detail, but their general tenor is the same. They all show and most of them catalogue the documents. They report that the documents are frequently used by the public. In only a few cases do the libraries ask the discontinuance of any document. There is one curious fact about the discontinuance requests. Nearly all of them say the Patent Office Gazette is not wanted. This is one of the most expensive publications the government gets out."

"It is valuable to the people who want it, but the libraries very generally do not. Each representative is authorized to name eight depositories for the Gazette in his district. Seven of these undoubtedly could be cut out and then there would be more copies than any one wanted. The subscription

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But there are very few publications turned out that have not at least 1,000 interested readers to whose particular line of work or investigation the document applies. These readers want the books or want at least to know where they can be had when needed.
"The sheepskin cover is a thing I have been trying for a long time to get rid of any way. The canvas cover costs 20 per cent less and lasts twice as long, especially in libraries and elsewhere where soft coal is used. A letter is now being prepared to go to all the government depositories bearing on just that point."

Fall Kills Stage Driver.
Frank Campbell, who fell from the stage while on his way to Kingston, Wednesday evening of last week, died Friday evening, says the Hillsboro Advertiser. He was completely paralyzed from his neck down, yet his mind was clear up to the time he passed away as in sleep. From the fact that the deceased had previously suffered a paralytic stroke, it is evident that he had another stroke that caused him to fall from the wagon. The deceased was a native of Nova Scotia and was about 45 years of age, and all that is known of his family is that he has a sister at Gloucester, Mass. He came to Kingston about twenty years ago, and was one of the most respected citizens in the county and his death is deeply regretted by all who knew him. The funeral took place at Kingston last Saturday afternoon, which was largely attended by the people of the surrounding country.

A DANGEROUS MISTAKE.
Albuquerque Mothers Should Not Neglect Kidney Weakness in Children.

Most children have weak kidneys. The earliest warning is bed-wetting. Later comes backache, headache, languor.
"It is a mistake to neglect these troubles. To blame the child for its own distress. Seek to cure the kidneys—Save the child from deadly kidney ills.
Doan's Kidney Pills cure sick kidneys.
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